

RUTH BITTERNESS

Ruth 1:19–22 » Pastor David Myles » October 15, 2017

Discussion Questions

1. All of us experience loss in varying degrees. Think about the times in your life when you have lost something or someone precious to you. Briefly share the story if you are willing.
2. In this passage, Naomi calls herself Mara, “Bitter.” She felt that her circumstances defined her. Yet God continues to call her Naomi, “Pleasant.” Who does God say that you are? How does this transcend your circumstances?
3. Naomi uses the names Yahweh and Shaddai for God, emphasizing both His covenant-keeping nature and His actions in her hardship. In your suffering, how are you more likely to see God? He brings her back at a time of harvest and provision. How is this a fulfillment of God’s covenant?
4. We want to be a church where we are safe to be open about our brokenness. Have you ever felt the pressure to hide your brokenness in church? Like Naomi, how can we foster transparency and honesty with each other and God?
5. Before we express bitter words, we spin bitter thoughts around in our minds and our hearts. What are the bitter thoughts in your mind that might become roots for bitter actions?
6. We often ask, “God, don’t you know how I feel?” In light of Hebrews 4:14–16 and 12:2–3, how can you bring your bitterness to Jesus? Take time to pray together.

Message notes available at newhopechurchmn.org/messages.

October 22 *Ruth: Provision*, Ruth 2:1–3, Pastor David Myles